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who are interested in learning something about the physical and intellectual environment of the continent on which they are living. This little book will stimulate an interest in the more careful and serious study of Latin-American institutions.

L. S. R.

CARLYLE, R. W. and CARLYLE, A. J. *A History of Mediæval Political Theory in the West*. Volume III, (from the tenth to the thirteenth century.) Pp. xvii, 201. Price \$3.00. New York: G. Putnam's Sons, 1916.

This volume keeps up the standard of those preceding. From a large and confused mass of material the author has sought to separate the ideas which became dominant in the political thought or pointed the way to new developments in Western Europe from the tenth to the thirteenth century.

The first portion of the book outlines the influence of feudalism on political theory. Contrary to the prevailing belief the author maintains feudalism did not check the advance of political thinking. It emphasized the subjection of the entire community to law, the contract relation between lord and vassal with its rules binding both parties—ruler as well as ruled. The idea of a loyalty to the king, above the lord was an important factor in the rise of nationalistic thinking.

The second part of the book deals with the relations of the theories of natural law, equality and the doctrine of the divine right of political authority. It is shown that the real meaning of the latter is that it is the divine function of political authority to maintain justice. Law is the embodiment of justice. These statements are the premises to the final conclusion that the relation between ruler and people is contractual and involves a mutual obligation to maintain justice and law.

C. L. J.

DAVIDSON, WILLIAM L. *Political Thought in England*. Pp. 256. Price, 50 cents. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1916.

This work is made up of eleven suggestive chapters. The introductory one discusses utilitarianism as a philosophy and a movement; four deal with the contribution of Jeremy Bentham, two with that of James Mill, three with that of John Stuart Mill and one with those of George Grote, John Austin and Alexander Bain. Utilitarianism is treated as a modern philosophical theory in ethics and politics which has its roots in the age-long interest in human well-being. This theory found its counterpart in "practical efforts to ameliorate the conditions of human life on rational principles, and to raise the masses through effective state legislation." No more significant and thought-provoking discussion of this movement has been printed than that afforded by this little volume.

R. C. McC.

GROTIUS, HUGO. *The Freedom of the Seas*. (Trans. with a revision of the Latin Text of 1633 by Ralph Van Deman Magoffin, and edited by James Brown Scott). Pp. xv, 83. Price, \$1.00. New York: Oxford University Press, 1916.

McLAREN, W. W. *A Political History of Japan During the Meiji Era, 1867-1912.*
Pp. 379. Price, \$3.75. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916.

The title of this book appears to be more or less of a misnomer. It is not so much a general political history of Japan during the Meiji Era as a history of certain political tendencies and of such political institutions as the Daijokwan (Council of State), the Privy Council, the various Cabinets, and (since 1890) the numerous sessions of Japanese Diets.

The work is divided into two parts. Part I, entitled "The Reconstruction Period" includes chapters on The Restoration Movement, The Abolition of Feudalism, The Reconstruction of Government, and so forth. Part II, on "The Parliamentary Régime" apparently deals with such topics as The Chino-Japanese War, The Russo-Japanese War, The End of the Meiji Era, etc. But the reader will find that these chapter-headings serve to mark off periods of time rather than as indices of the subject matter.

To those acquainted with Professor McLaren as a man or with his work as a scholar, this volume will be somewhat disappointing. His knowledge of the subject is undoubtedly thorough and comprehensive, but it is here presented in a particularly dry and unattractive form. For example, each cabinet change is carefully chronicled and the work of each session of the Diet accurately summarized. Besides, though the tone of impartial treatment is maintained throughout, the work is not free from a very pronounced anti-Japanese bias.

The book is not without its merits. The author is without illusions regarding the democratic or representative character of Japanese institutions or the pacific tendencies of the Japanese peoples. Its main thesis is perhaps that the Japanese are an essentially militaristic nation led and controlled (and it should be added, partly held in leash) by a bureaucratic clan oligarchy. The history and characteristics of this oligarchy during the Meiji period are very carefully traced. There is perhaps too much assumption insufficiently supported by evidence, but there can be no question of the substantial accuracy of the author's descriptions of political corruption and the evil tendencies inherent in clan government. Whether his assumption of a well-defined, unscrupulous and aggressive foreign policy in respect to China is equally well-founded remains to be demonstrated or disproven by future events.

AMOS HERSHAY.

Indiana University.

MADSEN, A. W. *The State as Manufacturer and Trader.* Pp. ix, 281. Price, 7 s.
6 d. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1916.

The purpose of this monograph is apparently to show the defects of government-managed industries, and so far as tobacco manufacture is concerned, the effort is entirely successful. The author presents brief sketches of the State tobacco monopoly in France, Italy, Austria, Japan, Spain and Sweden. He shows the financial results, the popular verdict on the quality of goods produced, and the unbusinesslike management of the public authorities. Outside of France his sources of information seem to have been meager, but there is undoubtedly an unanimous verdict against government control in all the countries treated.